

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

9. (Original) An image processing apparatus for processing a plurality of color image signals input by reading of a color image on an original, the apparatus comprising:

conversion means for converting said plurality of color image signals to a plurality of color signals;

first producing means for producing density distributions of plural color signals on the basis of the plurality of color signals converted by the conversion means;

discrimination means for discriminating a type of the original on the basis of the density distributions of the plural color signals produced by the first producing means;

first determination means for determining a colored background on the basis of the density distributions of the plural color signals produced by the first producing means;

second determination means for determining whether a background process is to be executed or not, on the basis of a determination result of the first determination means and a discrimination result of the discrimination means;

second producing means for producing, when the second determination means has determined that the background process is to be executed, a background process table using the density distribution values of the plural color signals produced by the first producing means, and synthesizing the produced background process table and a prestored density adjustment table, thereby producing a new density adjustment table; and

density adjustment means for performing density adjustment of the plural color signals input from the conversion means, on the basis of the new density adjustment table produced by the second producing means.

10. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second producing means prestores a plurality of density adjustment tables corresponding to original modes including a character original mode and a photograph original mode, and employs the density adjustment table corresponding to the original mode.

11. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
image reading means for reading a color image on an original and outputting a plurality of image signals;

conversion means for converting the plural color image signals output from the image reading means to a plurality of color signals;

first producing means for producing density distributions of plural color signals on the basis of the plurality of color signals converted by the conversion means;

discrimination means for discriminating a type of the original on the basis of the density distributions of the plural color signals produced by the first producing means;

first determination means for determining a colored background on the basis of the density distributions of the plural color signals produced by the first producing means;

second determination means for determining whether a background process is to be executed or not, on the basis of a determination result of the first determination means and a discrimination result of the discrimination means;

second producing means for producing, when the second determination means has determined that the background process is to be executed, a

background process table using the density distribution values of the plural color signals produced by the first producing means;

density adjustment means for performing density adjustment of the plural color signals input from the conversion means, on the basis of the background process table produced by the second producing means; and

image forming means for forming an image on the basis of the plural color signals obtained from the density adjustment means.

Claim 12 (Canceled).